GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:604
ANSWERED ON:20.02.2003
OIL BILL DEFICIT
V. VETRISELVAN

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of oil bill deficit as on March 31, 2002 and December 31, 2002; and

(b) the extent to which the oil bill deficit has been compensated by increasing prices of petroleum products during the above period?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)

(a): The cumulative outstandings payable to the oil companies as on 31st March 2002 were around Rs.13,500 crore. The Government had issued on 30th March 2002 `6.96 % Oil Companies` Government of India Special Bonds, 2009` amounting to Rs.9000 crore, to the oil companies to partially liquidate the outstanding claims of the oil companies against the oil pool account. The bonds for the balance outstanding amount would be issued after the C&AG`s audit of the oil pool account.

(b): With the dismantling of APM, the oil pool account has been wound up effective 1st April 2002. The pricing of all petroleum products, except for PDS Kerosene and domestic LPG, have become market determined effective 1st April 2002 and the oil companies are fixing the prices of these products keeping in view the prevalent international oil prices.